

REAL ESTATE AND BUILDING NEWS

August Sales Make Good Showing on Books of Court Clerks.

SPLENDID BUSINESS SO FAR IN SEPTEMBER

Auction Sales Best Attended in Many Years—Property Brought More Than Commissioners Expected—Optimists Now in the Saddle. Suburban Notes.

The real estate clearings for the month of August as compiled by Blanton and Purcell make a gratifying exhibit, considering that August is always a holiday month. The compilation shows the following totals: In old city limits—Improved property.....\$206,007 Vacant lots.....26,928 In annexed section—Improved property.....43,840 Vacant lots.....20,504 Suburban lots and improvements.....28,111 Suburban acreage.....42,110

Grand total.....\$367,300 Business has picked up immensely during the past week and the optimists are now in the saddle. All of the agents, with only one or two exceptions, agree that there has been marked improvements within the past few weeks.

Far Ahead of August. One of the agents who has scanned the whole field and has not confined his vision to his own office affairs estimates that during the first ten days in September more business was done in the way of trading in real estate in Richmond and the suburbs than was done in all of the month of August.

Of course, some of the deals which go to make up this splendid volume of business have not yet had the finishing touches put on by the clerks of the courts in the way of recording the deeds, but they are in the main bona fide deals and in due time the transactions will be put to record. Investors are beginning to look after Richmond property and they are letting nothing go begging.

Splendid Auction Sales. As evidence of the activity among investors the sale at auction of the Bahen property last Tuesday stands out in bold relief. McVeigh & Gillan and W. B. Blanton, real estate agents, sold at auction for Julius Gunn, Geddes H. Winston and A. W. Patterson, special commissioners, different properties known as the Bahen estate on First Street, and on Charity Street. It is all investment property and attracted one of the largest crowds that has attended an auction sale in years. The total sales amounted to about \$20,000. The property was frame and brick dwellings, and two vacant lots, one at the northeast corner of First and Charity Streets, and one at southeast corner of the same.

Each piece of property was knocked out at a figure considerably larger than the commissioners had valued it. In considering the real estate agents generally regarded this as a most auspicious opening of the fall business.

Numerous Good Sales. Other good auction sales were made during the week, and not a few private ones that are worthy of mention. Richeson & Crutcheff sold about \$12,000 worth of good residence property, and it was all in the western part of the city. Pollard & Bagby report the sale of \$15,000 of the same kind of property. Deyer & Ramsay sold a little more than \$5,000, and it was all residence property, except a small business lot on Broad Street. C. A. Rose sold a lot at Hanover and Meadow Streets for \$1,170; also a lot on North Twenty-ninth Street for \$1,050; also the residence No. 2505 East Grace Street, for \$2,875. Blanton & Purcell sold during the week four West End lots and a small residence in the north region, their total sales amounting to \$8,850.

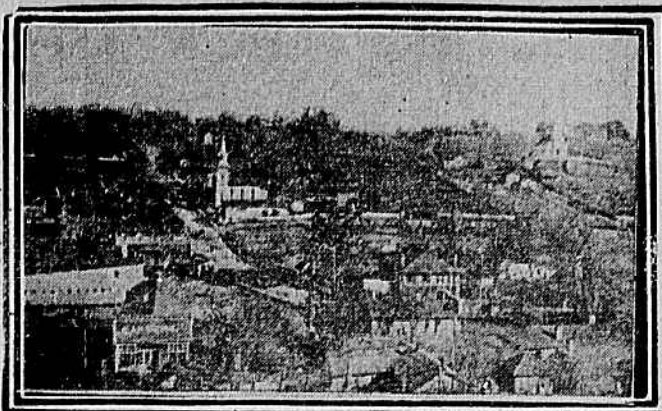
J. Thompson Brown & Co. made some good sales during the week, aggregating something like \$20,000. Among these were two lots on Main Street, near Main, which were bought by Mr. W. H. Haley, who intends to build on them at once. Another sale by Brown & Co. was a lot near the Lee Monument, which was sold to Mr. J. C. Rees. They have also recently made several sales in "Scott's Addition," which is north of Broad Street and west of the Boulevard, in the neighborhood of the new Richmond manufacturing and warehouse district.

Optimistic Views. Messrs. Green & Redd take an optimistic view of the situation. Their sales for the past week, which have been mostly in the western part of the city, have been very satisfactory. Mr. Green, of this firm, looks for lively business all this fall and winter in far west property.

It is hard now to find a pessimist among the real estate men. They are now and then one will chirp something about politics and the presidential campaign having something to do with the real estate business, but on the whole there are evidences of even better business as the days go by. There are several large deals on the string, some of them involving large money, say, from \$20,000 to \$25,000, that may be consummated at almost any moment. Smaller ones from the lower amount named down to the small transactions are likely to be closed up any old day in the very near future.

Suburban Notes. The suburbs have also been busy. (Continued on Third Page.)

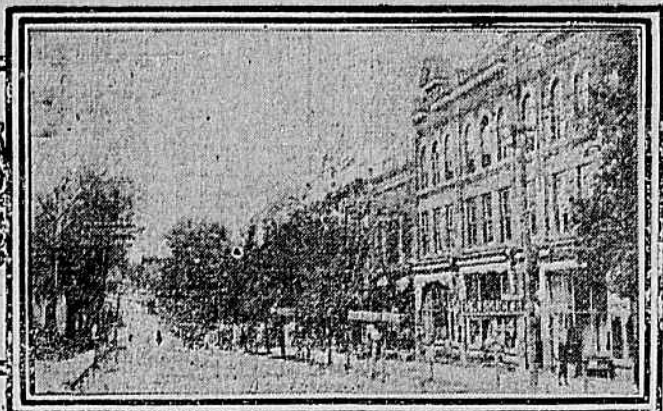
SCENES IN BUSY LIFE OF CHRISTIANBURG-CAMBRIA



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF CAMBRIA



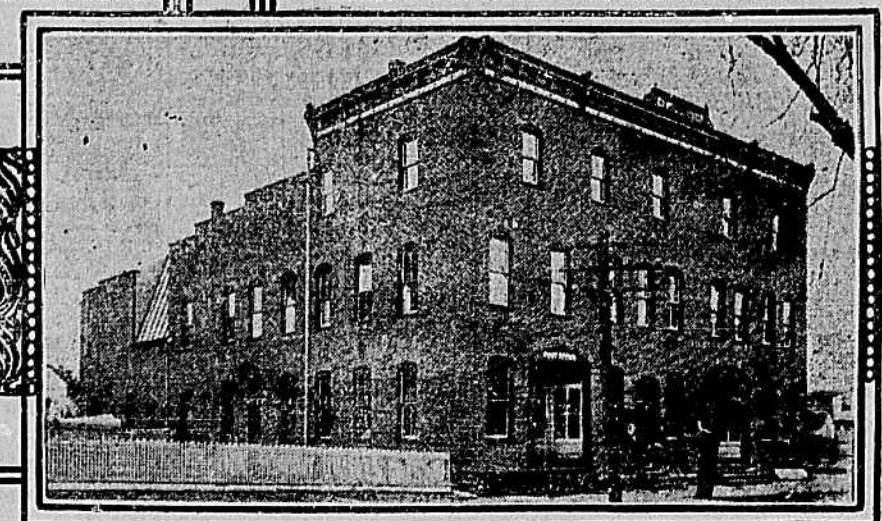
1ST. NAT. BANK—CHRISTIANSBURG



MAIN ST. SCENE—CHRISTIANSBURG



BANK OF CHRISTIANSBURG



POST OFFICE—CHRISTIANSBURG

RUINS OF ANCIENT SOLOMON'S MINES

How the Old Workings of King's Possessions in South Rhodesia Are Being Reopened.

HAVE PRODUCED \$50,000,000

Frank Carpenter Tells About Khami, Zimbabwe and Barotseland—How Frontier Is Policed.

Bulawayo. Did the gold of King Solomon's temple come from Rhodesia? Some local geologists claim that it did. There are mighty ruins here in Matabeleland, which are said to have belonged to the ancient miners, and Mashonaland are the ruins of ancient workings, and the gold mines which are in operation to-day consist chiefly of the deepening of the excavations of the past. Last year more than 10,000,000 worth of ore was taken out of this part of Africa and something like \$40,000,000 worth has been mined since the country was opened up. This is far north of and entirely apart from the great mines of the Transvaal, which are now yielding more gold than any other mines in the world. The workings there are on a gigantic scale. Here the mining consists of many hundreds of small propositions, and it is chiefly the work of the unknown races of the ancient past.

The miners are now looking for the old workings, and they find that the ancient workings are still there, but such as they had gone down only forty feet or so. They had crude ways of reducing the ore, and some of the waste on the old dumps is being worked over. I saw one shaft near here which had been cleaned out and extended, and the miners of to-day are now working the work of the men of thousands of years ago.

I am told that nearly all of the old reefs, as they are called, grow better as they go downward. They are mostly made up of low grade ore, but such that it can be worked with small stamps. Much of the gold is fine milling, and it takes but little machinery to work it. I have seen mills which have only three stamps each, and there are many which are worked by a couple of white men and a dozen or more natives.

King Solomon's Mines. There is considerable evidence that King Solomon got his gold from South Africa. When Vasco da Gama first made his way around the Cape of Good Hope he found that the natives at Sofala, a port in Portuguese East Africa, below the mouth of the Zambezi, had gold which came from the northwest, and probably Rhodesia. We know that gold was being taken out of Africa hundreds of years before that time, and it is said that much of the treasure of the ancient Romans was brought in from this region. It is known that the Arabians controlled for years a large part of the East African coast, and much of the gold which they poured into Egypt came through them. Some of the ruins here resemble those of the Sabeans, an old Arabian nation, and it is thought that they may have been built by Sabeans miners in the days of King Solomon. The records of history as far back as 1200 years before Christ cite the wealth of the Sabeans, and there is an Assyrian inscription dated B. C. 720, which speaks of Arabia as furnishing a rich tribute of gold, silver and incense. Arabia has practically no gold itself, and its treasure must have come from other countries.

As to the enormous amounts which were sent to Egypt, the excavations all along the Nile Valley have produced many gold ornaments and the museums of the world contain relics of the golden jewelry found in the mummy caskets from the tombs of the kings. While I was in Egypt a few months ago I visited the great temple of Karnak in the desert mountains, near the site of ancient Thebes. On that temple there are pictures

(Continued on Last Page.)



RESIDENCES—CHRISTIANSBURG & CAMBRIA



R.R. STATION—CHRISTIANSBURG & CAMBRIA

SALES OF TOBACCO ARE LIGHT AS YET

Last of the Primings Being Marketed, and Better Grade Just Beginning to Come In.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] LYNCHBURG, VA., September 19.—The sales of tobacco this week were considerably lighter than last, and were composed entirely of primings, which indicates that the larger portion of them have been sold. The offerings were generally in better condition than for the past two weeks; therefore prices were rather higher on all grades. Reports from the tobacco-growing district are very favorable, and indicate that with good weather until the tobacco is housed and cured, the crop will be a very desirable one. Sales of loose tobacco on the Lynchburg market for the two weeks ending September 15th, as reported by John L. Oglesby, of Lynch's Warehouse, were as follows: Sold week ending Sept. 11..... 309,000 Sold week ending Sept. 18..... 150,700 Sold from August 17, 1908, to September 18, 1908..... 1,112,800 Sold from September 11, 1907, to September 1, 1907..... 337,500 Increase for 1908..... 775,900

Light Sales at Danville. **[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]** DANVILLE, VA., September 19.—The sales of loose tobacco continue light. The primings part of the crop has about all been sold, and the better grades are beginning to come to market, but only in a small way. The indications are that the crop will be a good one in point of body and quality, but not so good as last year, and that wrappers will be scarce, especially high-class ones. The crop is practically all housed. The weather for the past ten days has been particularly good for curing. Hardly enough of the new has been sold to establish the price, but every indication points to prices that will be very satisfactory to the planters, and on quite as high a level as those which prevailed last season. As to quantity, compared with the last crop, it is generally thought there will be very little difference.

Old retailed tobaccos are more active, and already there is some inquiry, and a few sales of new retailed have been made.

Blue Crop Around Farmville. **[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]** FARMVILLE, VA., September 19.—The tobacco crop of this section is of very fine quality. Much of it has been sold, and it is expected that the offerings upon the market will be earlier than usual. Primings have never sold so well as this season. The quantity, too, has been unprecedented. It is believed that several million pounds more of tobacco will be sold on this market than last year, and the four large warehouses are making ready for the work. The seasons have been all that the farmers could desire, and not a sorry crop is known in this county.

Winston Market Active. **[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]** WINSTON-SALEM, N. C., September 19.—The loose leaf tobacco market

continues quite active, although the breaks are not large. Single sales continue to be the order of the day, and will continue thus until the first of October. The sales during the past few days have required about two hours' time for the four sales. The feature of the week has been the appearance of several additional buyers on the market, and now nearly all the regular buyers are answering the warehouse bells. The week has also been characterized by the appearance of much good tobacco on the floors. While primings continue to comprise the large part of the offerings, there has been a big increase in the better grades. A well-stocked warehouseman says the sales this week have averaged about \$9 per hundred.

Bedford City Sales. **[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]** BEDFORD CITY, VA., September 19.—The two warehouses, Saunders' and the People's, have opened with a lively market in primings, which are selling according to quality at from \$1.50 to \$2.70 per hundred. The quality of this tobacco is better than that of last season. It is believed there will be a larger crop of all grades than last year, as the weather conditions have been very favorable.

Much tobacco is bought here for foreign shipment, the buyers for various grades of tobacco, and the market is active. Last season was marked by the highest prices in the history of the market for years.

Items of Interest from All Points of the Country. Bank deposits in Oxford, N. C., have risen within the last five years from \$109,000 to \$206,000. The sales of leaf tobacco in Oxford the past season amounted to 5,000,000 pounds. The Berkeley Box and Lumber Company, of Norfolk, will soon rebuild its \$100,000 plant for manufacturing overalls. The Head-Tape-Coat Manufacturing Company, recently incorporated in Bristol, Tenn., to manufacture overalls, is erecting a plant to have a capacity of twenty dozen overalls daily.

The Rockbridge Power Company has secured franchise to furnish Buena Vista with electric light and power. The company proposes to develop water-power on North River and furnish electricity to Buena Vista, Glasgow, Buchanan and possibly Lexington, locating substations in each city; work on the dam for power plant was begun.

The Charlotte Power Company, of Charlotte, N. C., which was recently incorporated with a New Jersey charter, has secured a franchise in Gastonia, N. C., to operate a power plant.

MUCH BUILDING IN BEDFORD CITY

Many Handsome Structures Are Being Erected by Prosperous Residents.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] BEDFORD CITY, VA., September 19.—Persons connected with the various departments of housebuilding are kept so constantly occupied in this section that one must bespeak their services in advance to get any work done. Extensive improvements have been made at Randolph-Macon Academy, one of the most prominent of which is the installing of a new steam heating apparatus, for which a new engine-house, with an immense chimney, was necessary. A large addition to an annex of 7,000 feet is being built to the plant of the Bedford Mills Company.

The concern is owned by Philadelphia capitalists. This addition was necessary to meet the demands of a government order for woolen cloth that will occupy the mill for a year or more.

A plant for manufacturing tin cans is in course of construction near a cannery that is being erected along the line of the Norfolk and Western Railroad. A building on South Bridge Street has been remodeled for Mr. James McIntyre's clothing establishment. Mr. McIntyre is erecting in the rear of this, on Chestnut Street, another brick building, to be used as a store of some kind.

The former grocery store of Mr. E. G. Abbott, on Bridge Street, is now being virtually rebuilt. When completed Mr. McIntyre is erecting in the rear of this, on Chestnut Street, another brick building, to be used as a store of some kind.

Mr. William Ballard has laid the foundation for a large and handsome residence on the same street, Avenue Place, a part of the grounds of the Burwell property. Dr. S. S. Lambeth has purchased a lot and will shortly build a home. Mr. W. A. Fitzpatrick will also erect a residence.

MANY COZY HOMES NOW BEING ERRECTED

Demand for Them by Buyers and Renters Continues to Be Active.

DAVIS BROTHERS ARE BUSY

Another Syndicate Soon to Begin to Build Homes for Working Men.

Building operations in Richmond are now confined very largely to private residences, and it seems there is to be no end to the erection of the cheaper homes. Messrs. C. W. and J. Lee Davis, who started out to build fifty-two houses of this class this year, have already exceeded that number. They expect to break ground this week for ten houses to cost from \$2,500 to \$4,000. These will probably be completed by the end of the year, and will run the number up to sixty-one, nine more than they started out to build this year. The Davis' made a real estate deal last week, or rather got it well on the string, which, if it materializes, and there is now hardly a doubt that it will, will result in the building of at least seven more good houses. Being asked what he does with all these houses, Mr. C. W. Davis said, "Sell them if I can, and if I can't sell them, I rent them."

Mr. Davis further explained that he had no trouble in finding something to do with these homes as fast as he could get them ready for occupancy. He has sold an even dozen cheap homes within the past thirty days, and he finds no trouble in renting others.

Another Richmond in the Field. There is rumor that another syndicate has been formed with ample capital to do building for the same plan that has been adopted by the Davis Bros. It is understood that this syndicate has an option on a large lot of land out on Meadow and Ashland Streets, near the new park, and when the deal is closed, as will likely be the case this week, they will proceed at once to build a number of houses of the kind that may be bought or rented by working men, neat, cozy and with modern conveniences, but not so large and costly as even those the Davis Bros. have been building.

During the past week a number of investors bought vacant property within the city limits, and it is understood that in most cases it is the purpose of the investors to build as soon as possible. On the whole, it would seem that the building boom is not yet to be a thing of the past.

CROPS AND REVENUE. **[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]** AMHERST, VA., September 19.—Clerk W. E. Sandage has made his semi-annual report to the Auditor for the six months which ended with September 1st, 1908. The total amount of State revenue collected by this office during the time named was \$1,153,352. The number of deeds admitted to record, 292; law suits entered, 25; changes suits, 26; wills probated, 11; grants of administrations, 17.

Most of the tobacco crop is now in the hands of the growers. The time for gathering them is rapidly approaching. A number of growers have informed your correspondent that they are not able to get their crops to market, and that they are making a large profit on their tobacco crop this year at all. The crop for the entire United States is unusually large, and hence the closing of the market.

The public schools of the county will open on Thursday, October 1st. All of the teachers for the county have been selected, there are about five new graded schools to open this year.

OLD MONTGOMERY IS A RICH COUNTY

Christiansburg, the County Seat, Is a Lovely Old-Time Town.

CAMBRIA, THE NEW-BORN TWIN SISTER

Raw Material, Water and Electric Power at Hand to Make Them One Great Manufacturing Centre, of Which All Virginia Will Be Proud.

BY FRANK S. WOODSON, Industrial Editor. CHRISTIANSBURG, VA., September 19.—Montgomery county was in the long ago very nearly as large as the whole State of Virginia now is. Much of what is now the State of Kentucky was once a part of this county. It was formed in 1776, and was then an immense territory, but it has been encroached upon, and new counties and even at least a part of one new State formed from its territory, until there was one man who could ride all around its borders in a day, if mounted on a well-bred and swiftly moving horse, and that kind of an animal can be found right here in the county—lots of them—for Montgomery is famous for its fine horses that feed on its splendid blue grass. The county contains an area of nearly 400 square miles, and, after all of its cutting up into subdivisions, and after all the manufacturing of new counties that has been going on for more than a hundred years, it is yet a pretty big county.

Fertile Lands of Montgomery. The surface is rolling and mountainous generally. The soil varies according to the geological strata, being principally clay and limestone, and some portions slate and freestone. The greater portion of the county is very rich and productive, yielding fine crops of corn, wheat, oats, rye, tobacco, etc. It is especially adapted to the raising of all of its cutting up into subdivisions, and after all the manufacturing of new counties that has been going on for more than a hundred years, it is yet a pretty big county.

The minerals of the county are iron, zinc, lead, coal, sand-bearing rocks, copper, pyrites, millstone, limestone and slate. Only iron and coal are now being worked, the latter quite extensively.

The county is well watered by New and Little Rivers and the head waters of the Roanoke, which afford much valuable water-power, utilized to a considerable extent in manufacturing enterprises of various kinds. Besides its numerous farms and its fine horses, it has iron furnaces, foundries, stove and pipe works, wooden mills, furniture factories, etc.

The Norfolk and Western and its branch lines and the county's dependence for railway facilities, and they are ample. There are several good towns in the county, but it is the county seat, Christiansburg, and its twin town, Cambria, I wish to speak of in this letter.

Mighty Good Old Town. Christiansburg is the county seat and is one of the old towns of this part of the State. It is situated near the center of the county, on the old point on the Norfolk and Western road, being on the very summit of the Alleghany Mountains, 2,200 feet above tidewater.

While somewhat old-timey and a little old-fashioned in some of its ways, it is a pretty lively industrial town of about 1,000 to 1,200 inhabitants. To these may be added 600 to 800 more people who live within the city limits, which simply reads "Bank."

There are two banks doing a good business, one of which, the Bank of Christiansburg, is an old-timey, and holds forth in one of the old-fashioned combination residence and bank buildings, that is to say, the home of the cashier and the bank are under the same roof, and the modern traveler would never know that the handsome old-timey looking brick residence on the public square near to the ancient looking courthouse was also a bank if his eye should fall to fall upon the dingy sign at the end of the building, which simply reads "Bank."

The bank looks like a very small part of the aristocratic looking building, but it is a very important part, for within its safe vaults are held some \$100,000 and a cash surplus of \$100,000 or good paper to represent the same. There is no stronger financial institution in Virginia than the old Bank of Christiansburg. The town has another strong bank, a modern institution known as the First National. This concern has a more modern, but a no better building. The capital stock of the First National is the same as that of the old bank, \$25,000; and its deposits amount to \$135,000. Although the younger institution is only three years old, it already has a handsome surplus.

Among the industries of Christiansburg may be mentioned the Christiansburg Packing Company, a fruit and vegetable cannery, which employs from seventy-five to 100 hands, and does a fine business in canning the fruits and vegetables which grow to such fine perfection in the county. Canned apples, peaches, tomatoes and beans are the principal outputs of the cannery. Spoken and canned fruit is a profitable business here and gives employment to a large number of hands. Planing mills not only employ many men, but keep a number of saw mills on the various streams near the town quite busy. Five different lumber companies handle a great deal of timber. Pine, white oak and poplar are the leaders, but a great deal of walnut, sycamore, hickory, and cedar are marketed from here. Other smaller industries employ many men and do a good deal in the way of distributing money in the community.

Christiansburg, surrounded as it is by a splendid back country, is now and

(Continued on Third Page.)